29th January 1931]

Alleged ill-treatment of Mr. B. Venkataratnam by the Police at Rajahmundry.

*183 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a Police officer forcibly removed from the hands of Mr. B Venkataratnam, ex-M.L.C., a garland and a fruit with which he was honoured on his arrival at Rajahmundry from jail;

(b) what action has been taken against the Police officer for such conduct towards a respectable citizen; and

(c) whether this matter was brought to the notice of the Government by Mr. Venkataratnam?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter was brought to the Government's notice by Mr. Burra Satyanarayana, not by Mr. Venkataratnam.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I ask whether the information of the Government depends upon the report of police officers?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Having regard to the fact that a number of police officers are involved in these matters, and that they are not likely to give accurate information, will the Government pursue the enquiry and find out the facts?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I shall do so, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Having regard to the fact that two or three respectable people have complained to the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Home Member about the actual incidents as the former were eye-witnesses, are the Government prepared to contradict or refute the charges made against the Police officers who are concerned in this matter?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I shall enquire into the matter."

Alleged lathi charge against a picnic party near Peddapuram.

*184-A Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a lathi charge was made against a picnic party in the garden of Raja Gajapathi Varma, two miles from Peddapuram on the 21st December 1930;

(b) how many persons were injured and why the charge was made;

(c) who were the officers who ordered the lathi charge; and

(d) what action the Government have taken against these officers and, if no action has been taken, why not?